

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

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1 Claim 12 (Currently amended): A hearing aid device
2 comprising:
3 a digital signal processing unit having inputs
4 and outputs;
5 self-contained peripheral hardware units
6 operationally connected to said inputs and outputs of the
7 digital signal processing unit;
8 an identification unit in at least one of said
9 peripheral self-contained hardware units, the
10 identification unit having an output and containing
11 identification information of said at least one peripheral
12 self-contained hardware unit;
13 a storage unit remote from said hardware unit
14 containing identification information of more than one
15 hardware peripheral unit and having an output;
16 a comparing unit remote from said hardware unit
17 and having a first input, a second input, and an output,
18 said output of said identification unit being operationally
19 connected to the first input and said output of said

20 storage unit being operationally connected to the second
21 input; and
22 a memory unit being operationally connected to
23 the output of said comparing unit for storing the current
24 configuration of said hearing aid device with respect to
25 said peripheral self-contained hardware units.

1 **Claim 13 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 12, wherein the output of said comparing unit is
3 operationally connected to a control input for the
4 operation of said digital signal processing unit.

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1 **Claim 14 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 12, wherein said at least one of said self-contained
3 peripheral hardware units and said digital signal
4 processing unit is operationally connected via at least one
5 data bus and interface unit.

1 **Claim 15 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 12, further comprising an output of said device which
3 is operationally connected to an output of said memory
4 unit.

1 **Claim 16 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 14, wherein said interface unit is one of a
3 three-wire interface unit and a two-wire interface unit.

1 **Claim 17 (Currently amended):** The device of
2 claim 12, further comprising at least a second of said at
3 least one self-contained hardware peripheral units, and
4 wherein:

5 said one of said self-contained hardware
6 peripheral units treating audio signal components of said
7 device and being operationally connected to said digital
8 processing unit via a first data bus with first interface
9 units; and

10 said second of said self-contained hardware
11 peripheral units treating control signals of said hearing
12 aid device and being operationally connected with said
13 digital signal processing unit via a second data bus and
14 second interface units.

1 **Claim 18 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 12, wherein said at least one peripheral
3 self-contained hardware unit treats audio signal components
4 of said hearing aid device and is operationally connected
5 to said digital signal processing unit via a data bus with
6 at least three-wire interface units.

1 **Claim 19 (Currently amended):** The device of
2 claim 12, wherein said at least one hardware peripheral
3 self-contained hardware unit treats control signals of said
4 hearing aid device and is operationally connected to said

5 digital signal processing unit via a data bus with two-wire
6 interface units.

1 Claim 20 (Previously presented): The device of
2 claim 18, wherein said three-wire interface units are I²S
3 units.

1 Claim 21 (Previously presented): The device of
2 claim 19, wherein said second interface units are I²C units.

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1 Claim 22 (Previously presented): The device of
2 claim 12, wherein said one self-contained hardware
3 peripheral unit is one of a sensor, an actuator, a
4 transceiver, a manually operable selection switch unit, and
5 a potentiometer.

1 Claim 23 (Previously presented): The device of
2 claim 15, wherein said output of said device is an output
3 of a transceiver.

1 Claim 24 (Currently amended): A method for
2 manufacturing a hearing aid device, comprising the steps
3 of:

4 providing a digital signal processing unit;
5 providing at least one self-contained peripheral
6 hardware unit;

7 operationally connecting said peripheral
8 self-contained hardware unit to said digital signal
9 processing unit; and

10 automatically identifying said peripheral
11 self-contained hardware unit; and

12 storing the current hardware configuration of the
13 hearing aid device with respect to said peripheral units.

1 **Claim 25 (Previously presented):** The method of
2 claim 24, further comprising a step of selecting an
3 operational mode of said signal processing unit as a
4 function of said current hardware configuration.

1 **Claim 26 (Previously presented):** The method of
2 claim 24, further comprising a step of barring an operation
3 of said digital signal processing unit which does not
4 conform with said current hardware configuration.

1 **Claim 27 (Previously presented):** The method of
2 claim 24, further comprising a step of providing
3 interpretation of signals towards and/or from said digital
4 signal processing unit as a function of said current
5 hardware configuration.
